

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/808,024
Applicant: BENHAIM, et al.
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Art Unit: 2616
Examiner: BOAKYE,
Alexander
Docket No.: 7019P001
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Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sirs

In response to a phone call from the honorable examiner BOAKYE, Alexander dated January 10, 2009, the abstract is amended to include less than 150 words and to comply with 37 CFR 1.72.

The abstract is amended by deleting the second paragraph of the abstract and to include the term "an apparatus and" in line 1 of the abstract.

A marked version of the abstract:

The invention provides an apparatus and a method for allocating upstream bandwidth of a shared upstream channel of an optical network, the optical network interconnecting an apparatus with at least a first network unit and a second network unit, the method includes the stages of: (i) receiving requests for transmitting information towards the apparatus; and (ii) issuing data grants in response to at least the requests; wherein at least one data grant authorizes a first network unit to transmit data at a first bit-rate during at least one time-slot and at least one other data grant authorizes a second

network unit to transmit data at a second bit-rate during at least one other time-slot, whereas the second bit-rate differs from the first bit-rate.

The invention provides an apparatus that includes: (i) a transmitter for transmitting information towards at least a first network unit and a second network unit; (ii) a receiver for receiving information transmitted from at least one network unit; and (iii) a media access controller for issuing data grants; wherein at least one data grant authorizes a first network unit to transmit data at a first bit-rate during at least one time-slot and at least one other data grant authorizes a second network unit to transmit data at a second bit-rate during at least one other time-slot, whereas the second bit-rate differs from the first bit-rate. —

A clean version of the abstract:

The invention provides an apparatus and a method for allocating upstream bandwidth of a shared upstream channel of an optical network, the optical network interconnecting an apparatus with at least a first network unit and a second network unit, the method includes the stages of: (i) receiving requests for transmitting information towards the apparatus; and (ii) issuing data grants in response to at least the requests; wherein at least one data grant authorizes a first network unit to transmit data at a first bit-rate during at least one time-slot and at least one other data grant authorizes a second network unit to transmit data at a second bit-rate during at least one other time-slot, whereas the second bit-rate differs from the first bit-rate.